

# In-Class Essay will be given on Tuesday October 28, 2014

You may prepare for the essay by taking notes and creating an outline on the other side of this paper.  
You are strongly encouraged to create a thesis statement for your essay!

You may bring in this paper on the date of the essay and use it while you are writing. No other notes will be allowed!

## U.S. History and Government

### THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

*Directions:* Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion.

**Theme: The Thirteen Colonies**

The development of the Thirteen English Colonies was strongly influenced by geographic and cultural factors. Because of the differences in these factors, life in colonial regions often varied dramatically.

**Task:**

Choose *two* of the three colonial regions (New England, Middle, and Southern) and:

- **Analyze** the ways geography influenced the development of each colonial area
- **Compare** and **contrast** life in these *two* areas.

*Be sure to cite comparisons (similarities) and contrasts (differences) in your essay.*

Some suggestions you should consider in your comparison and contrast of colonial life include:

1. economy and occupations
2. society (this might include social classes)
3. religious practices
4. democratic practices (or lack of democratic practices)

**\*\* See textbook pages: 42 – 59, and 72 – 84 (home copy)**  
For information about the colonies and their individual and regional development.

**Guidelines:**

**In your essay, be sure to**

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

**In developing your answer to Part II, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:**

**(a) explain** means “to make plain or understandable; to give reasons for or causes of; to show the logical development or relationships of”

**(b) analyze** means “to determine the nature and relationship of the component elements”

\*\*\*\*\*

**Remember the following:**

1. This essay will count as a **TEST grade!** It is important that you spend thoughtful time working on creating a good outline with detailed notes!
2. This essay will be graded based on the rubric that is used for Regents Exams (this rubric is posted on the class webpage – titled Thematic Essay Rubric). This is important practice for your preparation for the exam.
3. If you need help with this essay, seek tutoring **BEFORE** Tuesday!